



News Release

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH WARNS CONSUMERS NOT TO EAT THREE BRANDS OF ALFALFA SPROUTS

Salad Cosmo Alfalfa Sprouts, Always Fresh and Alfa One Alfalfa Sprouts
have been Voluntarily Recalled

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Mark Horton, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), today warned consumers not to eat certain brands of alfalfa sprouts because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*, which can cause serious illness. The manufacturers are voluntarily recalling the alfalfa sprouts after routine testing detected *Salmonella*. No illnesses have been reported from these products.

"Consumers, especially young children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems are susceptible to serious infection when exposed to *Salmonella*," Horton said. "Today's warning is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of foods sold in California."

Salad Cosmo USA Corp. of Dixon, Calif., has recalled *Salad Cosmo Alfalfa Sprouts* distributed to retail stores, including SaveMart Supermarket and wholesale distributors throughout California and Washington.

The Salad Cosmo recalled alfalfa sprouts are packaged in 2.5-ounce plastic containers with white and green labels and clear 1-pound bags with blue labeling. Both packages are labeled *Salad Cosmo Alfalfa Sprouts*. The products have "Use By" codes: 0219, 0220, 0221, 0222, 0223, 0224, 0226, 0227, 0228, 0229, 0302 and 0303. The codes are located on the front label of the 2.5-ounce packages and on the left side of the 1-pound bags near the product name.

J.H. Caldwell and Sons Inc. of Maywood, Calif., has recalled *Always Fresh* and *Alfa One* alfalfa sprouts distributed to wholesale distributors and retail grocery stores in California, including Beach Market, KV Mart and Superior Warehouse, and to Trader Joes grocery stores in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

The J.H. Caldwell and Sons recalled alfalfa sprouts are labeled *Always Fresh* and *Alfa One*. The products are packaged in 4 ounce and 5 ounce containers and in plastic bags. The recalled product codes are 202182, 202192, 202202, 202212, 202222,

202232, 202242, 202252, 202262 and 202272. The code is printed on the side of the containers and on the back of the plastic bag.

CDPH continues to advise consumers about the risk of consuming raw sprouts. Conditions required for sprout growing are ideal for rapid bacterial growth. Sprouts usually are eaten raw, with no additional treatment such as cooking which eliminates bacteria that can cause disease.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Consumers who have eaten this product and are experiencing the above symptoms should consult their health care provider.

Consumers who purchased these products should immediately discard them or return them to the point of purchase for a refund. Consumers with questions may contact Salad Cosmo USA Corp. at (707) 678-6633 or J. H. Caldwell and Sons Inc. at (323) 589-4008.

Further information, including pictures of the products, is available at www.cdph.ca.gov

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